

**The letter to LTC Horvath from COL Bellino dated 7 February 1968 is retyped on the next pages.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 8<sup>TH</sup> TRANSPORTATION GROUP (MOTOR TRANSPORT)  
APO SF 96238**

AVQN-TG

7 February 1968

CPT John M. Horvath  
2568 B Pratt Rd.  
Fort Eustis, VA 23604

Dear Captain Horvath,

Of course I remember you from Mannheim and I am glad to know that you later commanded the 64<sup>th</sup> Trans Co. This fine company is now commanded by Captain Juan Lopez and he is doing an outstanding job. The 124<sup>th</sup> Bn, now consisting of the 64<sup>th</sup>, 563<sup>rd</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> (Plt) is commanded by LTC John A. Johnson, who was in COMZ when you and I were in Germany.

I'm pleased that BG Fuson has gotten the info I sent him into the hands of people who will spread the word to our young TC officers. I can't emphasize enough how unique in our history is the every day experience of the 8<sup>th</sup> Group since September 67. As one indication of this uniqueness let me cite a couple of statistics; September 1967 to date:

9 ambushes

15 convoy personnel KIA

63 convoy personnel WIA

82 known enemy KIA

7 known enemy WIA

45 vehicles destroyed or seriously damaged

In addition to the above, incident of road mines is so great that I won't attempt to tabulate the number. As an indication of the frequency, a couple of days ago each of the three battalions had a convoy in which one truck was damaged by road mines. All of this coupled with road closures due to blown bridges and heavy sniper fire has reduced considerably the ton/mile capability as you remember it.

I have in front of me, on my desk, the names of fourteen men who have been approved to receive the Bronze Star Medal for Valor (two more are pending approval for the award of the Silver Star) and all these result from just two of the ambushes – 24 Nov & 4 December.

So you see, John, why I take such pride in being associated with the 8<sup>th</sup> Group during this period, and why Generals Westmoreland, Abrams, Rosson (IFFV), Peers (4<sup>th</sup> Inf Div), and Koster (Americal Div), have singled out the 8<sup>th</sup> Group for commendation. I feel this especially keenly because sixteen years ago, as a member of the first TOAC to use the new Tschool, I sat in the auditorium to listen to a combat arms type from CONARC tell us how/why the technical services types were an albatross around the neck of the combat commander. Further, why he believed transportation and other such services should be performed by the combat arm in the Theater of Operations (I wonder if he was around long enough to learn how wrong he was?).

In a matter of a week my S3 and Asst S3 (Major Jasinski & Captain Williams) have read almost all your book “Street Without Joy”. I intend to start it as quickly as they will let me. You are most thoughtful in sending it along to us – I had been told of the book. I will leave it to the 8<sup>th</sup> Group with your letter glued to the inside cover. In this way all who read it will appreciate your pride in the TC and the 8<sup>th</sup> Group in particular.

Please remember me to my contemporaries there at Ft Eustis and the best of luck to you.

Sincerely,

/signed/  
JOE O. BELLINO  
Colonel, TC  
Commanding

Postscript:

John

At 1010 hrs this morn, 7 Feb, our convoy to Pleiku was hit 14 km east of Pleiku –

3 convoy pers. WIA

2 enemy KIA

1 vehicle & load of ammo destroyed.

/initialed/B